

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 11-19 are pending. Claim 20 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claim 19 is amended. Claims 11, 16, and 19 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 11-18 are allowed.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 5, 2002.

Amendments To The Specification

The title is amended to read "PROCESS OF MAKING A DISC BRAKE PISTON SEAL MEMBER".

The specification has been amended at page 1 to update the Cross-Reference to Related Applications, as required by the Examiner.

Accordingly, it is believed that the Examiner's objections to the specification have been obviated.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 60-141779, and claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable JP 60-120041. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 19 is amended herein to recite a combination of steps directed to method for manufacturing a disc brake piston seal member, including cutting said seal material into ring pieces for manufacturing multiple piston seal members, wherein upon formation of a seal member, a friction reducing agent of fluorine or other material is mixed with the material of the seal member.

Support for the above features can be found on page 7, line 12-13 of the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 19 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including JP 60-141779 and JP 60-120041.

Applicants respectfully submit that JP 60-141779 merely discloses fluorine material extruded into a cylindrical shape and then cut into sealant members. As such, JP 60-141779 fails to teach or suggest upon formation (e.g. after formation) of a seal member, a friction reducing agent of fluorine or other material is mixed with the material of the seal member.

In addition, JP 60-120041 fails to teach or suggest upon formation (e.g. after formation) of a seal member, a friction reducing agent of fluorine or other material is mixed with the material of the seal member.

Thus, at least for the reasons stated above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 19 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including JP 60-141779 and JP 60-120041.

Therefore, claim 19 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

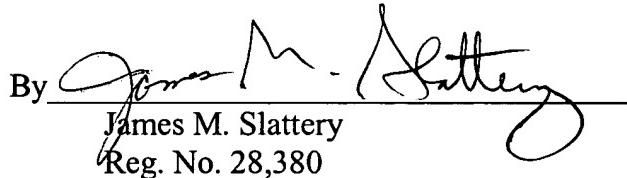
*Application No. 10/087,753
Amendment dated May 19, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 9, 2004*

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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